



February 4, 2014

Dear Representative,

We urge you to oppose the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act, H.R. 3964. This bill preempts state law and will weaken or eliminate protections for California's rivers, salmon fisheries and the Bay-Delta estuary.

This legislation would have devastating effects on salmon, anglers, thousands of small businesses and the economy by permanently preempting more than a century of state water law and water rights. It also directs the United States to violate its obligations to restore the San Joaquin River; obligations found in the Congressionally and court-approved 2009 San Joaquin River Restoration Act and supported by farmers, fishermen, conservation groups and state and federal government. The bill also weakens or eliminates federal protections for salmon and other fisheries by allowing unlimited numbers of salmon and other native fish to be killed by eliminating environmental flows set to protect these fish when water levels decrease.

The legislation would also eliminate the 1992 Central Valley Project Improvement Act, signed into law by President Bush, which encourages water conservation, the protection of salmon and establishes water supply and environmental protection as co-equal goals of the Central Valley Project.

California's Bay-Delta estuary is the lifeblood of the salmon fishery in California. The closure of the salmon fishery in 2008 and 2009 resulted in thousands of lost jobs in California and Oregon. The livelihoods of thousands of commercial and recreational salmon fishermen, Delta farmers, fishing guides, tackle shops, and communities across California and along the West Coast depend on the environmental protections that H.R. 3964 would eliminate.

The American Sportfishing Association is the nation's recreational fishing trade association. We give the industry a unified voice when emerging laws and policies could significantly affect sportfishing business or sportfishing itself. We invest in long-term ventures to ensure the industry will remain strong and prosperous as well as safeguard and promote the enduring economic and conservation values of sportfishing in America. Our KeepAmericaFishing angler advocacy program with over 1.1 million members represents the interests of America's anglers who generate over \$114 billion in sales.

The dry conditions that are causing low water supplies are placing a hardship on many and it is important that balanced solutions be sought and not actions that eliminate conservation measures for salmon and other endangered fish species. We again respectfully urge you to oppose H.R. 3964.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gordon C. Robertson".

Gordon Robertson
Vice President

AMERICAN SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION

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